

Glossary



USFWS

Hardwood forest

Glossary and Acronyms

Glossary

adaptive management	a process in which projects are implemented within a framework of scientifically driven experiments to test predictions and assumptions outlined within the comprehensive conservation plan. The analysis of the outcome of project implementation helps managers determine whether current management should continue as is or whether it should be modified to achieve desired conditions.
abiotic	a physical feature of the environment such as climate, temperature, geology, soils
aquatic	growing in, living in, or dependent upon water.
alternative	a set of objectives and strategies needed to achieve refuge goals and the desired future condition.
approved acquisition boundary	a project boundary that the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approves upon completion of the planning and environmental compliance process. An approved acquisition boundary only designates those lands that the Service has authority to acquire or manage through various agreements. The approval of an acquisition boundary does not grant the Service jurisdiction or control over lands within the boundary, and it does not make lands within the refuge boundary part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Lands do not become part of the System until the Service buys them or they are placed under an agreement that provides for their management as part of the System
basin	the surrounding land that drains into a water body.
best management practice	land management practices that produce desired results (usually describing forestry or agricultural practices effective in reducing non-point source pollution.
biological diversity	the variety of life forms and its processes, including the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur.
biological integrity	biotic composition, structure, and functioning at genetic, organism, and community levels comparable with historic conditions, including natural biological processes that shape genomes, organisms, and communities.
bird conservation region	ecologically distinct regions in North America with similar bird communities, habitats, and resource management issues.
bog	soggy, moist, spongy, or otherwise wet areas with peat soils—the partially or incompletely decomposed remains of dead plants and some animals. A type of peatland.
categorical exclusion	a category of Federal agency actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment.
compatible use	a wildlife-dependent recreational use, or any other use on a refuge that will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the mission of the Service or the purposes of the refuge.
compatibility determinations	a required determination for wildlife-dependent recreational uses or any public uses of a refuge.
Comprehensive Conservation Plan	a document that describes the desired future conditions of the refuge, and specifies management direction to achieve refuge goals and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

community	a distinct assemblage of plants that develops on sites characterized by particular climates and soils, and the species and populations of wild animals that depend on the plants for food, cover and/or nesting.
conservation easement	a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or governmental agency that permanently limits some uses of a property to protect its conservation values.
cool-season grass	introduced grass for crop and pastureland that grows in spring and fall and is dormant during hot summer months.
cover-type	the current vegetation of an area.
critical habitat	according to U.S. Federal Law, the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend.
delta	a low, flat area of land built up by layers of sediment deposited when the flow of a river is slowed as it enters a lake or ocean. A “bird’s foot delta is one that is formed in the shape of a bird’s foot.
tributary	a river that branches off from a major river before it reaches the sea or a lake, particularly a river delta.
early successional habitat	Succession is the gradual replacement of one plant community by another. In a forested ecosystem, tree cover can be temporarily displaced by natural or human disturbance (e.g., flooding by beaver, or logging). The open environments created by removal of tree cover are referred to as ‘early-successional’ habitats because as time passes, trees will return. The open conditions occur ‘early’ in the sequence of plant communities that follow disturbance.
ecological succession	the orderly progression of an area through time in the absence of disturbance from one vegetative community to another.
ecosystem	a dynamic and interrelated complex of plant and animal communities and their associated non-living environment.
ecosystem approach	a strategy or plan to protect and restore the natural function, structure, and species composition of an ecosystem, recognizing that all components are interrelated.
ecosystem services	a benefit or service provided free by an ecosystem or by the environment, such as clean water, flood mitigation, or groundwater recharge.
emergent wetland	wetlands dominated by erect, rooted, herbaceous plants.
endangered species	any species of plant or animal defined through the Endangered Species Act as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and published in the <i>Federal Register</i> .
Environmental Assessment	a systematic analysis to determine if proposed actions would result in a significant effect on the quality of the environment.
environmental health	the composition, structure, and functioning of soil, water, air, and other abiotic features comparable with historic conditions, including the natural abiotic processes that shape the environment.
exotic species	a species that is not native to an area and has been introduced intentionally or unintentionally by humans.
extinction	the termination of existence of a lineage of organisms (e.g., a subspecies or species).

extirpation	the localized extinction of a species that is no longer found in a locality or country, but still exists elsewhere in the world.
Federal-listed species	a species listed either as endangered, threatened, or species at risk (formerly a “candidate” species) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
fee-title acquisition	the acquisition of most or all of the rights to a tract of land; a total transfer of property rights with the formal conveyance of a title.
fragmentation	the process of reducing the size and connectivity of habitat patches. The disruption of extensive habitats into isolated and small patches.
geographic information system	a computer system capable of storing and manipulating spatial mapping data.
goals	descriptive statements of desired future conditions.
historic conditions	the composition, structure, and functioning of ecosystems resulting from natural processes that we believe, based on sound professional judgment, were present prior to substantial human-related changes to the landscape.
impoundment	a body of water, such as a pond, confined by a dam, dike, floodgate, or other barrier, that is used to collect and hold water.
interjurisdictional fish	populations of fish that are managed by two or more State or national or tribal governments because of the scope of their geographic distributions or migrations.
invasive species	a non-native species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
issue	any unsettled matter that requires a management decision. For example, a resource management problem, concern, a threat to natural resources, a conflict in uses, or in the presence of an undesirable resource condition.
jump shooting	walking with or without a dog to flush waterfowl from the marsh before shooting (as opposed to sitting and waiting in a blind and shooting waterfowl as they fly in to decoys set on the marsh).
limiting factor	an environmental limitation that prevents further population growth.
National Wildlife Refuge System	all lands, waters, and interests therein administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as wildlife refuges, wildlife ranges, wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, and other areas for the protection and conservation of fish, wildlife and plant resources
Neotropical migratory bird	a bird species that breeds north of the United States/Mexico border migrate and winters primarily south of the U.S. border in Mexico, the West Indies, or Central or South America.
nonpoint source pollution	a diffuse form of water quality degradation in which wastes are not released at one specific, identifiable point but from a number of points that are spread out and difficult to identify and control.
nuisance species	plants and animals (sometimes called nonnatives or exotics) that threaten the Lake Champlain Basin’s native fish, wildlife, and plants and impede recreational activities.
objectives	actions to be accomplished to achieve a desired outcome or goal. Objectives are more specific, and generally more measurable, than goals.
peatland	a type of wetland with organic or peat soils--the partially or incompletely decomposed remains of dead plants and some animals.

physiographic area	a bird conservation planning unit with relatively uniform vegetative communities, bird populations, and species assemblages, as well as land use and conservation issues, developed by Partners in Flight.
point source pollution	a source of pollution that involves discharge of waste from an identifiable point, such as a smokestack or sewage-treatment plant.
preferred alternative	the Service's selected alternative identified in the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan.
prescribed fire	the application of fire to wildland fuels, either by natural or intentional ignition, to achieve identified land use objectives.
restoration	management of a disturbed or degraded habitat that results in the recovery of its original state (e.g., restoration may involve planting native species, removing invasive shrubs, prescribed burning).
riparian area	habitat along the banks of a stream, river, or wetland.
riverine	within the active channel of a river or stream.
scoping	a process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed by a comprehensive conservation plan and for identifying the significant issues. Involved in the scoping process are federal, state and local agencies; private organizations; and individuals.
species	a distinctive kind of plant or animal having distinguishable characteristics, and that can interbreed and produce young. In taxonomy, a category of biological classification that refers to one or more populations of similar organisms that can reproduce with each other but is reproductively isolated from – that is, incapable of interbreeding with – all other kinds of organisms.
stopover habitat	habitat where birds rest and feed during migration.
strategies	a general approach or specific actions to achieve objectives.
terrestrial	living on land (in the uplands)
threatened species	those plant or animal species likely to become endangered species throughout all of or a significant portion of their range within the foreseeable future. A plant or animal identified and defined in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act and published in the <i>Federal Register</i> .
trust resources	national resources entrusted by Congress to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for conservation and protection. These “trust resources” include migratory birds, federal-listed endangered and threatened species, inter-jurisdictional fishes, wetlands, and certain marine mammals.
vernal pool	depressions holding water for a temporary period in spring and other high water periods, and in which several species of amphibians lay eggs.
warm-season grass	native prairie grass that grows the most during the summer, when cool-season grasses are dormant.
watershed	The geographic area within which water drains into a particular river, stream, or other water body.
Wilderness Area	An area designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System

wilderness study area	Lands and waters identified by inventory as meeting the definition of wilderness and being evaluated for a recommendation that they be included in the Wilderness System.
wildlife-dependent recreation	A use of a Refuge involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education, or interpretation. The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 specifies that these are the six priority general public uses of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Acronyms

ACRONYM	FULL NAME
ADA	American with Disabilities Act
ACJV	Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
AMP's	Accepted Management Practices
ARPA	Archaeological Resource Protection Act
ATV	All-terrain vehicle
BMP	best management practice
BCR	Bird Conservation Region
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CCP	Comprehensive Conservation Plan
CWCS	Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
DU	Ducks Unlimited
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECHO	Ecology Culture History Opportunity
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
Fee Demo Program	Recreation Fee Demonstration Program
GIS	Geographic Information System
HIP	Harvest Information Program
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
IBA	Important Bird Area
Improvement Act	National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997
LCBP	Lake Champlain Basin Program

ACRONYM	FULL NAME
LCSC	Lake Champlain Steering Committee
LE	law enforcement
LPP	Land Protection Plan
MANEM	Mid-Atlantic/New England/Maritimes (Waterbird Conservation Plan)
MAPS	Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship
MSL	mean sea level
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRBA	Missisquoi River Basin Association
MAPS	Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NABCI	North American Bird Conservation Initiative
NAWMP	North American Waterfowl Management Plan
PCB's	polychlorinated biphenyls
PIF	Partners in Flight
Refuge System	National Wildlife Refuge System
RNA	Research Natural Area
RONs	Refuge Operations Needs System
SAV	submerged aquatic vegetation
Service	US. Fish and Wildlife Service
SCEP	Student Career Experience Program
TNC	The Nancy Conservancy
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
US DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
US EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UMaine	University of Maine
UVM	University of Vermont
VT ANR	Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

ACRONYM	FULL NAME
VT DEC	Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
VT DFW	Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department
VTrans	Vermont Agency of Transportation
WAP	Wildlife Action Plan
WIA	wilderness inventory area
WSA	wilderness study area
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
YCC	Youth Conservation Corps

